

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IT,

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

1. THE WHITE HOUSE WILL RELEASE AT TODAY'S NOON BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING PRESIDENT CARTER'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI: BEGIN QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER MET THIS MORNING IN THE WHITE HOUSE WITH GIULIO ANDREOTTI, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC. THE TWO LEADERS HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN WORLD ISSUES, ALLIANCE QUESTIONS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. ALSO PRESENT WERE FOREIGN MINISTER ARNALDO FORLANI, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PAOLO PANSI, MINISTER UMBERTO LA ROCCA, SECRE-

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TARY VANCE AND DR. BRZEZINSKI.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER REVIEWED THE JOINT INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES DECIDED UPON DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JULY 1977. A SERIES OF CABINET-LEVEL VISITS HAS TAKEN PLACE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS OVER THE

LAST TEN MONTHS. NEW AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SECURITY, EXCHANGE OF LANGUAGE-TEACHING EXPERTS, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND OTHERS. THE TWO LEADERS EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR AND INDICATED THAT PROGRAMS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE, IN PARTICULAR A RENEWED EMPHASIS ON THE BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE COMMON PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI DESCRIBED SEVERAL RECENT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO BRING TO JUSTICE THE MURDERERS OF ALDO MORO. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN ANTI-TERRORIST EFFORTS. PRESIDENT CARTER POINTED TO THE RESILIENCE WITH WHICH ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHSTOOD THE TERRORIST ATTACK AND TO OTHER ENCOURAGING RECENT EVENTS. HE REAFFIRMED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN ITALY'S ABILITY TO OVERCOME PRESENT DIFFICULTIES AND CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

THE TWO LEADERS WILL SEE EACH OTHER AT THE WESTERN SUMMIT MEETING IN BONN IN JULY. END QUOTE

2. DECONTROL UPON RELEASE. VANCE
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